

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-03 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02
SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 AID-05
MCT-01 COME-00 MCE-00 EB-08 /121 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
PA/PRESS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

-----004223 060052Z /17

O 052254Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
NSC WASHDC 0000
USCINCEUR
DOD
USIA

UNCLAS STATE 087819

CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 5, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 5. FYI ONLY,
OFFICER PRESENT TODAY WAS TOM RESTON.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY REPLY YET ON THE INQUIREY AS TO WHETHER
AMERICAN WEAPONS WERE MISUED IN LEBANON OR HAVE YOU ADVISED
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THE PRESIDENT TO MAKE ANY REPORT ALONG THOSE LINES?

A. I AM AFRAID I AM NOT IN A POSITION AT THIS BRIEFING TO
GIVE YOU THE RESULTS OF THAT STUDY. WE WILL HAVE IT FOR
YOU VERY SHORTLY. I EXPECT IT THIS AFTERNOON.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING THERE ON ISRAELI REPRESENTATION
TO THE UNITED STATES THAT SAUDI ARABIA MAY HAVE GIVEN ARMS
TO THE PLO -- ARMS CAPTURED IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND FROM
THE TERRORISTS WHO CARRIED OUT THE RAID IN TEL AVIV,
AMERICAN MADE ARMS WITH SAUDI ARABIA MARKINGS ON THEM?

A. NO. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT FOR YOU.

Q. IS THERE ANY DECISION ON THE FUTURE OF THE PLO INFOR-
MATION OFFICE IN NEW YORK?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT FOR YOU.

Q. I BELIEVE THAT MR. MORRIS DRAPER, WHO APPEARED
YESTERDAY BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE,
SAID SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT -- I AM NOT SURE THAT THIS
IS ACCURATE, BUT MAYBE THIS CAN BE CHECKED -- THAT NOTH-
ING CAN BE DONE ABOUT THAT OFFICE, THAT IT IS A LEGITI-
MATE OFFICE THAT HAS TO STAY.

A. I WILL BE GLAD TO TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF F-5 PLANE SALES TO SUDAN?

A. YES. WE HAVE DECIDED TO SELL F-5'S TO SUDAN, TWELVE OF THEM. THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SUDANESE HAVE IMPROVED MARKEDLY OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS WITH THE RESUMPTION OF U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND THE INITIATION OF A LIMITED ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP.
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IN 1977 THE UNITED STATES SOLD SUDAN SIX C-130 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, THREE OF WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED. IN A STATESMAN-LIKE EFFORT IN 1977 PRESIDENT NUMAYRI -- WHO, BY THE WAY, IS EXPECTED TO BECOME OAU CHAIRMAN THIS COMING JULY -- LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN OF RECONCILIATION WITH SUDANESE DISSIDENTS AND RELEASED SOME 1200 POLITICAL PRISONERS AND ISSUED A GENERAL AMNESTY TO ALL HIS OPPONENTS.

SUDAN'S AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY CURRENTLY IS SERIOUSLY ERODED. I MIGHT POINT OUT THAT SUDAN'S LAST MILITARY TIES WITH THE USSR WERE SEVERED IN 1977.

IN RESPONSE TO A SUDANESE REQUEST A MILITARY SURVEY TEAM WAS SENT TO SUDAN LAST AUGUST. THAT TEAM RECOMMENDED THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD SELL A MODEST AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE OF TWELVE F-5'S AND SUPPORTING RADAR AS OUR CONTRIBUTION TO A MULTILATERAL EFFORT OF WESTERN NATIONS TO MEET SUDAN'S DEFENSIVE REQUIREMENTS.

SUDAN, A MODERATE NATION WHICH IS DEDICATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS VAST AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL IS PLAYING A SIGNIFICANT MEDIATING ROLE IN BOTH THE AFRICAN AND ARAB WORLDS AND BY THAT I MEAN THE CHAD-LIBYA CONFLICT AND SUDANESE SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE.

Q. WHAT POLITICAL AND SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THIS DECISION?

A. I MENTIONED IN THE STATEMENT THAT SUDAN'S AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY IS CURRENTLY ERODED BECAUSE THEY SEVERED THEIR LAST MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN 1977.
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Q. WHO IS THREATENING THEM?

A. WELL THERE IS GENERAL INSTABILITY IN THE AREA AS YOU KNOW.

Q. WHAT AREA?

A. IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, AND IN LIBYA, CHAD, AND THERE IS QUITE A BIT GOING ON.

Q. THESE ARE NATURAL QUESTIONS BECAUSE ARMS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES. SO THEY NEED THESE PLANES TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST WHOM?

A. I DID NOT SAY THAT THEY WERE UNDER ANY SPECIFIC THREAT. I SAID THAT THERE IS GENERAL INSTABILITY IN THE AREA AND THAT THE SURVEY TEAM WHICH WENT OUT THERE FOUND THAT THEIR DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY HAD BEEN ERODED BECAUSE OF THEIR SEVERING OF MILITARY TIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

Q. ARE YOU THINKING OF THEM AS AN AFRICAN COUNTRY OR A MIDDLE EAST COUNTRY?

A. WELL, I THINK IN A SENSE THEY ARE BOTH. YOU HAVE INSTABILITY IN THE HORN. YOU HAVE INSTABILITY BETWEEN LYBIA AND CHAD, AND YOU HAVE INSTABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. SO IT'S PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION IN THE HORN, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE LYBIA AND CHAD DISPUTE -- AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT I GUESS YOU MEAN BY THE MIDDLE EAST. THEY'RE SORT OF PART OF ALL THREE.

A. I THINK THAT ALL THREE OF THOSE SECURITY SITUATIONS, ONE WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN ASSESSING THE DEFENSIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEEDS OF THE SUDAN.

Q. YOU KNOW THAT THEY HAVE AN EXTRAORDINARILY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPT. IT'S ALMOST A CONFEDERATION, IF

IT ISN'T. WOULD THESE PLANES BE TRANSFERRED TO EGYPT IN THE EVENT OF A MIDDLE EAST WAR?

A. I CAN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION. I WILL BE GLAD TO CHECK AND SEE WHETHER THERE ARE ANY PROVISIONS IN THE AGREEMENT WHICH, OR BY WHICH WE WOULD HAVE A VOICE IN WHETHER THOSE PLANES COULD BE TRANSFERRED OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.

Q. SO YOU ARE NOT GOING TO PROVIDE THE USUAL CAVEAT THAT THERE IS A PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER TO A THIRD COUNTRY? YOU DON'T KNOW THAT UNTIL YOU CHECK IT?

A. IF I DON'T KNOW IT, IT IS BECAUSE OF MY OWN IGNORANCE AND I AM NOT TRYING TO MAKE A POLICY STATEMENT HERE.

Q. IS THIS A SPECIAL CASE?

A. I WILL CHECK TO SEE WHETHER IT IS A SPECIAL CASE; BUT I THINK YOU ARE CORRECT, THAT GENERALLY THERE ARE PROHIBITIONS ON SUCH TRANSFER -- AND I HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS ANY DIFFERENT.

Q. IS THERE ANY DECISION YET ON THE DEFENSIVE WEAPONS DELIVERY TO SOMALIA? THEY ARE IN THE SAME AREA. THEY CUT TIES WITH THE RUSSIANS LAST YEAR, AND THEY HAVE A BAD AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM.

A. I HAVE NOTHING NEW AT ALL ON THE SOMALIA THING FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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YOU.

Q. YOU SAID THAT THIS SALE TO THE SUDAN IS PART, THE US PART OF A WESTERN EFFORT.

A. YES.

Q. COULD YOU PROVIDE SOME DETAILS ON THE OTHERS? WHAT WESTERN COUNTRIES, AND WHAT THEY MAY SELL?

A. LET ME SEE WHETHER I CAN GET YOU A LIST OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THIS EFFORT.

Q. IN DECIDING TO SHIP ARMS TO SUDAN, DID YOU TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT DELICATE MIDDLE EAST BALANCE THAT WAS BEING WEIGHED WHEN YOU MADE THE DECISIONS ON SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT AND ISRAEL? OR DOES THAT SORT OF STAND ON ITS OWN, AND THIS IS KIND OF A SEPARATE, SIDE ISSUE?

A. I REMEMBER THE QUITE EXTENSIVE DEBATE ON THIS QUESTION WHEN THE ARMS PACKAGE WAS BEING DISCUSSED. I AM RELUCTANT, REALLY, TO GET INTO THAT FOR YOU. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO IT; BUT I THINK CLEARLY, THIS IS SEEN AS BEING LESS IN THAT THEATER THAN EGYPT AND ISRAEL ARE IN THAT THEATER.

Q. DO YOU THINK THIS WILL AFFECT THE ARAB-ISRAELI ARMS BALANCE? LET ME PUT IT THAT WAY.

A. I REALLY DON'T HAVE A JUDGMENT ON THAT FOR YOU.

Q. BUT WHY ISN'T IT INCLUDED IN THE PACKAGE?

A. BECAUSE WE THOUGHT THAT THE PACKAGE SHOULD BE THOSE THREE COMPONENTS WHEN WE ANNOUNCED IT.

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Q. IF CONGRESS SHOULD VETO THIS, WOULD YOU WITHDRAW YOUR ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

Q. WELL IS THERE NO ADDITION ON THE OTHER PARTS OF THE PACKAGE?

A. NO. THE PACKAGE STANDS, AS A PACKAGE, AND THAT PACKAGE INCLUDES THE MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THOSE THREE COUNTRIES: EGYPT, ISRAEL AND SAUDI ARABIA.

Q. WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO DELIVER THEM? WHEN ARE THE DELIVERY DATES?

A. I WILL BE GLAD TO CHECK WHAT THE PROJECTIONS ARE, FOR YOU.

Q. ARE THERE ANY OTHER SHIPMENTS TO OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES OR TO THE SUDAN IN THE PIPELINE. I MEAN, IN PREPARATION FOR LETTERS OF OFFER TO CONGRESS?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON ANY OTHERS FOR YOU. THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THERE AREN'T, BUT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO ANNOUNCE ANYTHING ELSE.

Q. MR. DRAPER, AGAIN, IN THE CONGRESS YESTERDAY SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION THAT THERE WERE 2,000 LIBYAN STUDENTS STUDYING IN THE UNITED STATES, CURRENTLY, 200 OF WHOM ARE STUDYING NUCLEAR ENGINEERING. IS THIS REVELATION CAUSING

ANY CONCERN ANYWHERE IN THE ADMINISTRATION?
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A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON LIBYAN STUDENTS HERE IN THE UNITED STATES. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO OFFER OUR THOUGHTS ON THAT. IF MR. DRAPER ADDRESSED THAT QUESTION ON THE HILL YESTERDAY, I IMAGINE THAT THAT WOULD BE THE POSITION OF THE ADMINISTRATION; WHATEVER HE SAID, I MUST SAY. I HAVE NOT SEEN THE TEXT OF HIS REMARKS, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU ON IT.

Q. HE WAS UNABLE TO JUSTIFY IT, AND HE TOOK A QUESTION FROM SENATOR STONE.

A. WELL THEN I AM SURE THAT SOME ANSWER WILL BE FORTH-COMING.

Q. ARE THERE ANY NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR AID, FINANCIAL AID, TO LEBANON, ECONOMIC AID? I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT THE \$50 MILLION -- SOMETHING ELSE.

A. NO, I HAVE NOTHING ABOUT AID TO LEBANON.

VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE087819
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780147-0933
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197804109/baaafcij.tel
Line Count: 335
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f535bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2829590
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 5, 1978
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f535bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014